

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 4242

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJ: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE

REF: STATE 233098

1. I FULLY APPRECIATE AND SHARE DEPT'S CONCERN EXPRESSED REFTEL, I.E., THAT WE SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID BEING INADVERTENTLY DRAWN INTO OR USED BY EITHER DISPUTANT AS AN ACCESSORY TO ITS STRATEGY. I CAN REASSURE DEPT THAT I HAVE BEEN AT ALL TIMES CONSCIOUS OF FOREGOING CONCERN AS I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CARRY OUT, AS APPROPRIATE, THE ROLE OF SERVING AS INFORMAL CHANNEL TO SUPPLEMENT AND FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DISPUTANTS. IN KEEPING WITH OUR PRIORITY POLICY INTEREST OF ENCOURAGING THE DISPUTANTS TO WORK ACTIVELY TOWARD A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND HAVING IN MIND THE PRESENT HIATUS IN NEGOTIATIONS AND DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THEM, I HAVE BELIEVED AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL SERVE OUR POLICY INTEREST IN THESE UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES FOR US TO HELP CLARIFY FOR THE RESPECTIVE DISPUTANTS THE INTENTIONS OF THE OTHER PARTY IN DEALING WITH THE DISPUTE. MY PURPOSE, DEPENDING ON WHAT WE ASCERTAIN TO BE THEIR INTENTIONS, IS TO HELP THE MODERATES TO DETER, INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, THE HOT-HEADS ON EITHER SIDE FROM NEEDLESSLY OR

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MISTAKENLY IMPELLING THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ON COURSES

WHICH WOULD VERY LIKELY EMBITTER THEIR RELATIONS AND UNDERMINE CHANCES OF EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THEIR DISPUTE OR, AT WORST, LEAD TO RENEWED CONFRONTATION.

2. IN CONTEXT OF AFOREMENTIONED PURPOSE, IN CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN BORGONOCO OCTOBER 23, I GAVE HIM GENERALIZED SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF INFORMATION GLEANED FROM HONDURAS 4553. I ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE FURTHER ABOUT BUSINESS OF PRE-EMPTIVE CONTINGENCY PLANNING HE HAD MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY. HE READILY DISCLOSED THAT HIS MFA STAFF (AND ONLY THAT ENTITY) HAD BEEN WORKING ON PROPOSAL FOR CONTINGENCY PLAN WHICH WOULD CALL FOR GOES TO AVAIL ITSELF OF OAS COOMITTEE OF SEVEN PAPER GIVEN RECENTLY TO BORGONOVO (AND TO BATRES SOME WEEK AGO), AS A PEG ON WHICH TO TAKE INITIATIVE BEFORE THAT BODY TO A) INVITE ITS ATTENTION TO FACT THAT GOES HAS SCRUPULOUSLY COMPLIED WITH ALL COMMITTEE OF SEVEN REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN LEVIED ON THE DISPUTANTS SINCE 1969 AND WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED UNILATERALLY;

B) POINT OUT THAT, BY CONTRAST, GOH HAS FAILED TO DO SO IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES WHICH WOULD BE CITED, AND C) DEMAND THAT COMMITTEE OF SEVEN TAKE ACTION TO FORCE GOH TO COMPLY WITH OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED UNILATERALLY BY EITHER DISPUTANT AND WHICH THEY HAVE FAILED TO DO.

3. BORGONOVO STRESSED THAT THIS WAS A CONTINGENCY PROPOSAL WHICH MIGHT BE UTILIZED ONLY IN THE EVENT THAT GOES BECAME CONVINCED THAT GOH INTENDED TO PRESS ITS CASE BEFORE OAS OR ICJ, PARTICULARLY BY INVOKING BOGOTA PACT. WHILE HE WAS KEEPING TIGHT REIN ON MFA PLANNERS, HE COULD NOT OPPOSE THE PROCESS OF GOES CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON THE DISPUTE, IN LIGHT OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF HONDURAN INTENTIONS, WITHOUT THE RISK OF UNDERMINING HIS OWN CREDIBILITY AND POSITION WITH GOES. COMMENT: FOR OBVIOUS REASON, THE CONTENTS OF PARAS 2 AND 3 MUST BE CLOSELY HELD AND PROTECTED BY US.

4. IN REVIEWING OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, BORGONOVO ALSO CLARIFIED THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT HIMSELF SPOKEN WITH CABEI PRESIDENT ORTEZ COLINDRES (AS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN SAN SALVADOR 4205). HE HAD RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM TRUSTWORTHY SALVADORAN BUSINESSMAN GUILLERMO BORJA NATHAN

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WHO SPOKE WITH ORTEZ ON WEEKEND FLIGHT. ASIDE FROM INFORMATION ATTRIBUTED TO ORTEZ IN SAN SALVADOR 4205, BORGONOVO MENTIONED THAT ORTEZ ALLEGEDLY STATED TO BORJA NATHAN THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES WERE LETTING IT BE KNOWN TO GOH THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR EMERGENCY LENDING TO HONDURAN RECONSTRUCTION WOULD BE INFLUENCED FAVORABLY IF PROGRESS WERE MADE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR.

5. BORGONOVO ALSO DISCLOSED THAT FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO CASTANEDA, WHO IS IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK, HAD SPOKEN WITH GOH FONMIN BATRES AND WITH ORTEZ COLINDRES. BORGONOVO SAID CASTANEDA PREFERRED TO BRIEF HIM ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH ORTEZ AFTER CASTANEDA RETURNS THIS WEEKEND. AS TO BATRES, CASTANEDA REPORTED THAT BATRES HAD TRIED HIM ON THE CRISES AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT HIS RESIGNATION WAS "NOT 100 PERCENT SURE BUT ONLY 90 PERCENT." BATRES REPORTEDLY STATED TWO CONDITIONS FOR HIS REMAINING IN THE CABINET: A) THAT SOME "PROFOUND CHANGES" TAKE PLACE IN THE MAKEUP OF THE GOVERNMENT (CASTANEDA INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT THE CABINET BE SHAKEN UP TO OUST ACOSTA BONILLA) AND B) THAT THE GOH APPROVE THE MEDIATION FORMULA HE HAD NEGOTIATED. BATRES ALSO ALLEGEDLY CLAIMED THAT THE TIDE WAS BEGINNING TO TURN IN HONDURAS OWN FAVOR OF MEDIATION.
CAMPBELL

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